

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 JAKART 05444 040520Z

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ACTION SS-30

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R 040427Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2129

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 5444

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (GENERAL IBNU SUTOWO)

SUBJ: POSSIBLE IBNU SUTOWO MEETING WITH SECRETARY

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY INGERSOLL

1. WHEN GEORGE BENSON, FORMER DAO JAKARTA NOW EMPLOYED BY GENERAL IBNU SUTOWO OF PERTAMINA, WAS IN JAKARTA EARLY APRIL HE RAISED POSSIBILITY OF MEETING BETWEEN IBNU SUTOWO AND SECRETARY KISSINGER. IBNU TO BE IN WASHINGTON MAY 22-23.

2. I TOLD BENSON THAT SECRETARY, WITH HIS INTEREST IN INDONESIA AND IN ENERGY, WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY FIND MEETING WITH GENERAL IBNU INTERESTING AND AGREEED TO RAISE SUBJECT WHEN GENERAL IBNU'S SCHEDULE BECAME CLEARER. I HAVE NOT HEARD FURTHER FROM PERTAMINA AT THIS END. I UNDERSTAND BENSON HAS NOW RAISED QUESTION WITH HEAVNER IN WASHINGTON.

3. GENERAL IBNU IS UNDOUBTEDLY KEY FIGURE IN INDONESIA AND IS CLOSE TO PRESIDENT SUHARTO. I AM NOT AT ALL CERTAIN, HOWEVER, HOW MEETING BETWEEN IBNU AND SECRETARY WOULD BE REGARDED BY PRESIDENT AND OTHER KEY OFFICIALS. WHILE I HAVE TO DATE FOUND NO EVIDENCE OF SENSITIVITIES ON ATTENTION PAID TO GENERAL IBNU BY AMERICANS WE CANNOT BE CERTAIN IT IS UNIVERSALLY APPLAUDED IN THIS COMPLEX SOCIETY. MEETING BETWEEN IBNU AND SECRETARY, IF APPRO-
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PAGE 02 JAKART 05444 040520Z

PRIATELY ARRANGED, COULD GIVE SECRETARY GOOD PICTURE OF

KEY FIGURES IN INDONESIAN ENERGY POLICY AND WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY HELP US IN OUR RELATIONS WITH IBNU.

4. TO AVOID RISK OF ANY REACTION HERE SUGGEST, IF SECRETARY'S SCHEDULE PERMITS, UNPUBLICIZED MEETING IN WHITE HOUSE OR IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING OR FOLLOWING LUNCH WITH YOU AND OTHERS IN DEPARTMENT. (YOU WILL RECALL AMBASSADOR THAJEB UNABLE SEE SECRETARY FOR FAREWELL CALL; HE EXPRESSED SOME UNHAPPINESS TO ME ABOUT THIS.)

5. ANOTHER ALTERNATIVE IS FOR ME TO INFORM STATE SECRETARY SUDHARMONO OF SECRETARY'S WILLINGNESS TO SEE GENERAL IBNU IF THIS WILL BE USEFUL AND APPROVED BY PRESIDENT SUHARTO. IF I WERE TO DO THIS, I WOULD NEED TO BE FAIRLY SURE CALL WOULD BE ARRANGED IF PRESIDENT SUHARTO AGREES.
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